

CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

The Newport Beach Public Library encourages parents to bring children to the library whenever possible. The library staff has been trained to help children enjoy the library and the materials it offers. The City offers many programs designed to encourage children to use and enjoy the library. However, the safety of young children and the rights of other patrons require parents to monitor the behavior of their children and correct behavior which is inappropriate.

For purposes of this policy the term disruptive behavior means the creation of loud and unreasonable noise, running or jumping, fighting or other behavior which could interfere with the rights of other patrons.

Library staff shall administer the following policies relative to the presence of children in the library:

A. CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SEVEN

Children under seven may not be left unattended in the library. Parents must be present in the immediate vicinity of any child under seven. Parents are responsible for their child's behavior while in the library and staff will attempt to advise the parent if the child's behavior is disrupting staff or other patrons. Parents who fail to correct their child's behavior in response to a request from staff may be asked to remove their child from the library.

B. CHILDREN BETWEEN SEVEN AND TWELVE

Parents shall be responsible for children between seven and twelve. Staff may ask children of that age to behave and, if the disruptive behavior continues, staff shall notify the child's parents and may request the parent and child leave the library. Any child below the age of twelve who remains in the library at closing time shall be placed in the custody of the Newport Beach Police Department who shall assume responsibility of the child.

C. CHILDREN TWELVE AND OLDER

Disruptive children over the age of twelve will be asked to leave the facility after receiving one warning from staff. Staff will attempt to notify the responsible parent before or after the warning and may request parental assistance.